

Energy Gateway South Transmission Project Project Update

Final EIS: As explained in the previous Project Update, in early 2014 the BLM asked the applicants of the Energy Gateway South (EGS) and TransWest Express (TWE) transmission projects, Rocky Mountain Power and TransWest Express LLC, respectively, to colocate at least portions their proposed transmission line alignments along the agency-preferred alternative route shared by the two projects. That effort was completed in early June 2014.

Comments received in late May 2014 by the BLM on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were reviewed and analyzed, and responses have been prepared for inclusion in the Final EIS. Some comments received on the Draft EIS prompted (1) incorporation of additional information into the Final EIS and (2) analysis of localized route variations along the agency-preferred alternative route as identified in the Draft EIS. The additional time needed to incorporate the additional information and to analyze the localized route variations will result in releasing the Final EIS to the public in late Summer or Fall 2015.

Until release of the Final EIS, a map showing the alternative routes being analyzed for the Final EIS, and highlighting the current agency-preferred alternative route adjusted from route shown in the Draft EIS, is posted on this BLM website and on the searchable landowner website sponsored by Rocky Mountain Power (see below).

Resource Task Groups: Task groups of resources leads from participating agencies continue to meet regularly to focus on solutions for resource-specific issues. The *Cultural Resources Task Group* (CRTG) continues to draft the Programmatic Agreement that outlines the stipulations that will be followed for identifying, assessing, and treating cultural resources in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The CRTG and Consulting Parties will review the Programmatic Agreement in early 2015. The completed Programmatic Agreement will be included as an appendix in the Final EIS. The *Biological Resources Task Group* continues addressing issues of key biological resources that could be affected by the project and developing mitigation and conservation strategies to reduce effects of the project. The *Visual Resources Task Group* continues addressing potential effects of the project on views and landscape character as well as compliance with visual management objectives designated in agency resource management plans.

Tribal Consultation: In addition to preparing the EIS and efforts in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM continues efforts to engage American Indian tribes through Government-to-Government consultation. The BLM met with the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in early August 2014.

Searchable Landowner Website: Once the EGS and TWE colocated alignments were reviewed and approved by the BLM, the localized route variations had been analyzed, and the agency-preferred alternative route had been confirmed and



revised, the BLM sent a postcard to inform the parties on the mailing list that the Applicant updated its public website for landowners to search and determine the relationship of the transmission line alternative routes to their properties. This web tool has proved useful to landowners, and is available at: http://gis.paragon-partners.com/FlexMaps/GWS_Website.

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